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SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

50X1-HUM

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1. Very little specific data concerning land ownership in Kwangtung is published in Communist land reform reading material meant for the public and for land reform training classes.
2. About two weeks before the new land reform policy was formulated [redacted] the Communists borrowed library copies of CH'EN Han-seng's English-language study of the vicinity of Canton, and had the figures translated into Chinese. The translated figures were never published for public information. CH'EN's data was collected twenty years ago. He was not a Cantonese, and had no previous acquaintance with the local conditions he was studying. Furthermore, the field personnel who helped him collect the data were not well-trained or supervised. Consequently, the figures are based largely on guesswork of local villagers.
3. Occasionally newspapers publish special articles on land reform conditions in specific villages, but the data on land distribution is for the most part not well collected and formulated, evidently because of the inadequate background and education of the workers.
4. There is one reliable contemporary Kwangtung village study available (unpublished), in which the data was computed with great care. This data disagrees with data on the same village collected by the Communist Government. The government figures are mostly based on old tax records kept by the Kuomintang regime, and supplemented by investigation of doubtful property lines.
5. In carrying out a land reform program, the bigger landlords are unmistakable targets. However, lack of accurate data will make execution of the program difficult in the case of small landlords, who are quite numerous in areas of Kwangtung affected by the land reform. Their discontent may prove to be a political liability, and their insecurity will lower the confidence of the general rural population in the new government.
6. The land reform program is the Communists' most powerful means of generating animosity between landlords and peasants. It provides

50X1-HUM

50X1-HUM

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- 2 -

the peasant with land, and at the same time gives him a clearly recognizable enemy. Land redistribution is accompanied by a one to two year drop in agricultural production. Nevertheless, the Communists are speeding land reform in the south because they require the loyalty of the peasants in facing the international crisis.

7. The order of priority in which areas are required to complete the land reform program roughly corresponds to the relative military importance of the various areas. When the first program of land reform in Kwangtung was promulgated, only six counties were supposed to complete the reform in the first year as an example to the rest of the province. All the six counties are old Communist guerrilla bases in the East River area, which will again be their redoubt in case of trouble. The Government wished to leave agricultural production in the rest of the province undisturbed as much as possible. When the international situation became serious [redacted] with Chinese Communist participation in the Korean war, the land reform program was suddenly accelerated. Orders to complete it were issued in 21 counties (including the original six) in the same area. They are all in a mountainous section suitable for guerrilla activities. The Canton area also is now included among localities where the program must be completed during the first year. This is to provide the city with a safety zone where loyal support of the agricultural producers can be counted upon.

50X1-HUM

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